

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1-16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a rotary member capable of carrying an image recording material on its surface;

a rotary brush which rubs and slides on the surface of the rotary member;

a counter for counting a number of rotations of the rotary brush, and

a controller which controls operation of the rotary brush;

wherein, the controller operates in two control modes,

a first mode for active rotation of the rotary brush, and

a second mode for passive rotation of the rotary brush as driven by rotation of the rotary member, and

wherein the controller executes the first mode before a cumulative number of rotations of the rotary brush in the second mode, as counted by the counter, exceeds a prescribed number of rotations.

18-19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of components, each of which comprise;

a developing device,

a photosensitive image carrier on which an image is formed by the developing device

and

a rotary brush which rubs and slides on the surface of the photosensitive image carrier,

a controller which controls operation of each rotary brush; and

a counter for counting a number of rotations of the rotary brush;

wherein, the controller operates in two control modes, a first mode for active rotation of the rotary brush and a second mode for passive rotation of the rotary brush as driven by rotation of the photosensitive image carrier and wherein the controller executes the first mode before the cumulative number of rotations of the rotary brushes of the plural components in the second mode exceeds a prescribed number of rotations.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the amount of push p for pressing the rotary brush against the rotary member satisfies the following condition,

$$0.1 \text{ mm} \leq p \leq 2.0 \text{ mm}.$$

23. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein nip width n in the area of contact between the rotary brush and the rotary member satisfies the following condition,

$$2.0 \text{ mm} \leq n \leq 10.0 \text{ mm}.$$

24. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein when only one component among the plural components makes an image and the other components

do not make images, the controller controls the apparatus so as to execute the second mode for the rotary brushes of the other components.

25. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the rotary brush is an charging brush for electrically charging an photosensitive image carrier.

26. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the rotary brush is a cleaning brush for cleaning an photosensitive image carrier.